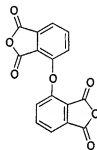


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

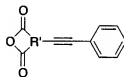
1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A thermoplastic imide oligomer obtained by polymerizing an acid component and a diamine component characterized in that at least 30 mol % of the acid component is an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I);



(I)

or its derivative, and that the terminal of imide oligomer molecule is capped by two or more times of moles of the difference in mole number between the acid component used and the diamine component used, of a dicarboxylic acid anhydride having a triple bond in the molecule represented by formula (IV);



(IV)

in which R' is a trivalent organic group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms, which is a monocyclic aromatic group, a condensed polycyclic aromatic group or a non-condensed polycyclic

aromatic group where aromatic groups are linked each other directly or through a linking member, and any of aromatic ring in formula (IV) may be unsubstituted or substituted.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 9 wherein at least a part of the diamine component is a diamine represented by formula (II);

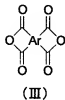


in which R is a substituted or unsubstituted bivalent organic group having an aromatic and/or aliphatic ring(s).

12. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 11 wherein R is a bivalent organic group having an aromatic ring(s).

13. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 12 wherein R has at least three aromatic rings.

14. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 9 wherein the acid component further comprises an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (III);



in which Ar is a quadrivalent organic group having an aromatic ring, or its derivative, which is different from the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I) and the derivative thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A thermosetting imide oligomer obtained by heat-treating the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
16. (Previously Presented) A solution or suspension containing the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
17. (Previously Presented) An amic acid oligomer, which is a precursor of the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
18. (Previously Presented) A solution or suspension containing the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17.
19. (Previously Presented) A thermosetting imide oligomer obtained by imidizing the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17.
20. (Previously Presented) A polyimide obtained by heat-treating the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.